

Remarks

The Applicants acknowledge the objection to the Abstract that was submitted with the Application. The Applicants are in full agreement that the Abstract that appears on the cover page of the pamphlet published by the IB can be utilized as the abstract for this Application.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of Claims 1 – 9 as being anticipated by Yotsumoto. The Applicants would first like to point out that the Application as originally claimed contains Claims 1 – 11. Examination of Claims 10 and 11 on the merits is respectfully requested. The Applicants assume that reference to Claims 10 – 11 was inadvertently omitted in the Official Action and will accordingly treat those claims in the same manner as the claims specifically identified.

The Applicants agree that Yotsumoto discloses an adhesive for fibrous materials that is utilized to adhere polyester fibrous material to rubber. However, this is not what the Applicants claim. In that regard, we invite the Examiner's attention to Claims 1 and 9, which specifically recite four components. The components are a moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer, a fibrous structural material, a pre-treating agent containing a polyhydric compound as a main component coated onto fibers of the fibrous structural material and a water-swellaable adhesive layer. The Applicants respectfully submit that Yotsumoto fails to disclose all four components. Assuming arguendo that the "rubber" disclosed by Yotsumoto is similar to the moisture-permeable, water-resistant layer, further assuming that the polyester fibers of Yotsumoto are similar to the claimed fibrous structural material and still further assuming that the adhesive of Yotsumoto is similar to the water-swellaable adhesive layer of the claims, Yotsumoto still fails to disclose a pre-treating agent containing a polyhydric compound as a main component coated onto fibers forming the claimed

fibrous structural material. Careful scrutiny of the entire Yotsumoto disclosure simply fails to reveal any such disclosure. Inasmuch as a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 must either explicitly or implicitly disclose each and every component of the claimed subject matter, Yotsumoto cannot support such a rejection. There is simply no disclosure, explicit or implicit, of a pre-treating agent containing a polyhydric compound as a main component coated onto fibers forming the fibrous structural material. The Applicants accordingly respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of the solicited claims based on Yotsumoto.

The Applicants have added new Claims 12 – 19. They are based primarily on Claims 1 – 8, respectively. Examination on the merits and prompt allowance is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, we respectfully submit that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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